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WAC 468-270 SETTING TOLL AMOUNTS FOR TOLL FACILITIES IN WASHINGTON STATE

NEW SECTION

WAC 468-270 *nn* Who sets the toll rates and exemptions?

The Washington State Transportation Commission determines and establishes toll rates for toll facilities in Washington pursuant to RCW 47.56.030; RCW 47.46.100 (Tacoma Narrows Bridge); and RCW 47.56.403 (SR 167 HOT Lanes).

WAC 468-270 *nn* Who collects the tolls and how are they collected?

The Department is ultimately responsible for collecting tolls. However, the Department may contract with one or more independent toll collection companies to manage the day-to-day toll collection activities at its various toll facilities. All toll related revenues collected by any independent toll collection company through WSDOT are payable to the state of Washington.

WAC 468-270-*nn* Definitions.

- (A) **"Citizens advisory committee"** means the citizens committee established by RCW 47.46.090 that advises the Transportation Commission on Tacoma Narrows Bridge toll rates.
- (B) **"Department"** means the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT).
- (C) **"High-occupancy toll (HOT) lanes"** means one or more lanes of a highway that charges tolls as a means of regulating access to or the use of the lanes in order to maintain travel speed and reliability. HOT lane supporting facilities include, but are not limited to, approaches, enforcement areas, improvements, buildings, and equipment.
- (D) **"Transponder"** means a radio frequency identification (RFID) unit attached to a toll customer's vehicle that transmits a radio signal to a reader mounted in the toll facility. The purpose of the transponder is to automatically identify the toll customer's vehicle as it passes through the toll facility. You will receive a transponder when you open a *Good to Go* Account.
- (E) **"Transportation Commission"** means the Washington State Transportation Commission whose duties and composition are set out in RCW 47.01.
- (F) **"Electronic toll collection (ETC) lane"** means a lane in which the electronic toll collection system will read the transponder of each vehicle and automatically collect the toll without requiring the vehicle to slow its speed or stop.

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- (G) "**Good To Go!**TM" is the name of the Department's electronic toll collection system.
- (H) "**Good To Go!**" **customer**" means a toll customer who participates in the department's "Good To Go!" toll collection system.

WAC 468-270 nn How are the tolls determined?

In determining toll amounts, the Transportation Commission considers data and information provided by the Department of Transportation, public opinion and advice from any required citizen advisory committee. For the Tacoma Narrows Bridge only, in accordance with RCW 47.46, the Commission must consider the toll rate advice of the citizen advisory committee and must set toll amounts that cover the debt and operations and maintenance until the indebtedness is repaid.

WAC 468-270 nn What toll facilities are currently subject to this Chapter?

Currently, the Tacoma Narrows Bridge and SR 167 HOT Lanes are covered by this chapter.

WAC 468-270 nn How often will the toll rates for each toll facility be reviewed for potential change?

The toll rates will be reviewed and subject to change at least annually and more often as necessary to ensure the toll revenue of each facility is meeting the payment requirements and/or traffic efficiency requirements for that facility.

WAC 468-270 nn What will be the toll rates be?

| Tacoma Narrows Bridge | | | |
|---|----------------|-------------------------------|--|
| | Cash toll rate | <i>Good To Go!</i> toll rates | |
| 2 axle | | | |
| 3 axle | | | |
| 4 axle | | | |
| 5 axle | | | |
| 6 or more axles | | | |
| Note: The <i>Good To Go!</i> toll rates are in effect only through June 30 2008. On July 1, 2008 the cash toll rate becomes the toll rate for all vehicles. | | | |

| SR 167 HOT lanes | |
|------------------|--|
| To be determined | |

WAC 468-270 nn When are these toll rates in effect?

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The toll rates for each facility will take effect upon commencement of the tolling program on each new toll facility. Check the WSDOT website at wsdot.wa.gov/goodtogo for updated information on the opening dates for the tolling programs.

- (A) For the Tacoma Narrows Bridge toll rates will remain in effect until changed by the Commission or removed due to final repayment of the project.
- (B) For the SR 167 HOT Lanes, the tolls will remain in effect until changed by the Commission.

WAC 468-270 *nn* What vehicles are exempt from paying tolls on the Tacoma Narrows Bridge?

- (A) All vehicles that use the ETC lanes must be equipped with a transponder. The following vehicles are exempt from paying tolls, will be equipped with a transponder and be authorized a non-revenue account:
 - 1. Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Maintenance vehicles directly involved in bridge and roadway maintenance on SR 16 in the vicinity of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge;
 - 2. Washington State Patrol vehicles directly providing service to the SR 16 corridor in the vicinity of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge.
- (B) All other emergency vehicles that use the ETC lanes must be equipped with a transponder and an authorized prepaid account. Those vehicles that use the ETC lanes on a bona fide emergency run will receive a monthly credit for each emergency trip. WSDOT will establish and oversee the procedure for emergency vehicle toll credits.

WAC 468-270 *nn* What vehicles are exempt from paying tolls on the SR 167 HOT lanes? RCW 47.56.403 establishes an exempt category of vehicles. The Transportation Commission may include other exempt vehicles before tolling commences.

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